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Lawrence, George Alfred

Most eminent
Sir Charles Roome...

[New York]

[1917]

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MOST EMINENT SIR CHARLES ROOME

LAWRENCE

MOST EMINENT
SIR CHARLES ROOME

Grand Master of the Grand Encampment
Knights Templar of United
States of America

—BY—

G. ALFRED LAWRENCE, M. D., Ph. D.

Past Commander Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23, K. T. of New York
and Past Venerable Dean Tsadhe Chapter, Acacia Fraternity,
Columbia University, New York City.

THIS BROCHURE IS AFFECTIONATELY AND COURTEOUSLY DEDICATED
TO THE SIR KNIGHTS OF COEUR DE LION COMMANDERY No. 23,
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF NEW YORK, OVER WHICH COMMAND-
ERY SIR CHARLES ROOME PRESIDED AS EMINENT COM-
MANDER SO FAITHFULLY; HIS SON, SIR CLAUDIUS MO-
NELL ROOME, LATER PRESIDED AS EMINENT COM-
MANDER IN A MOST EFFICIENT MANNER; AND
THE AUTHOR, AS EMINENT COMMANDER AT A
STILL LATER PERIOD, ENDEAVORED TO EMU-
LATE IN HIS FEEBLE WAY, THESE BRIGHT
LIGHTS OF TEMPLARISM.
BY
THE AUTHOR

CHARLES ROOME

CHARLES ROOME

"'I pray thee, then
Write me as one that loved his fellow men.'
The angel wrote and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest."

This epitomizes the deep religious nature, sterling integrity, patient forbearance under adverse criticism, and the kindly, dignified, considerate attitude of Most Eminent Sir Charles Roome, fourteenth Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America in all his dealings with his fellow men.

The founder of the Roome family in America came to New York City in 1684, and the father of the subject of this biographical sketch, Nicholas Roome, was one of twenty children. This Nicholas Roome in his day and generation was a leader among the men of his period not only as a wealthy merchant and head of one of New York's largest mercantile establishments but Masonically. He served as Worshipful Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, New York City, in 1809, 1810, and 1811, and at one time served as High Priest of Ancient Chapter No. 1 Royal Arch Masons and was a Sir Knight of Columbian Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar.

He also served as Superintendent of the Old State Prison for a period of years. He died honored and respected September 5th, 1824, when his son, Charles, was only twelve years of age.

With such a Masonic heritage, Charles Roome was born August 4th, 1812, and was the eldest son, and received the best education then offered in the schools of New York City.

Upon attaining his majority he first entered a mercantile career in the book business. This not proving to his taste he secured a partner and entered the wholesale grocery business but this venture was a failure and after considerable financial loss was abandoned. His health had become broken and as a result the next two years were spent in the open air in Texas as a surveyor. Returning to New York City with restored health in 1837 he entered the employment of the Manhattan Gas Light Co. as a clerk, devoting his evenings to the study of Civil Engineering under Professor Terry, a man of wide reputation in his profession. He was soon advanced to the position of assistant engineer and in 1842 became engineer-in-chief, in which position he continued until 1855 when he was elected president of the Company and annually re-elected to this latter position for a period of thirty years. Upon the fusion of the Manhattan Gas Co. with the four other New York City Gas Corporations he

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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was unanimously elected president of this the newly formed Consolidated Gas Co. and held this position until two years prior to death when failing health compelled him to refuse further re-election. He was also one of the Directors of the Consolidated Gas Co. for many years and in 1886 became Chairman of the Board of Managers which post he filled at the time of his death. During this period he visited Europe several times to obtain all possible information and the most approved appliances for gas manufacture and was considered a leading authority on all matters pertaining to this important industry.

Brought up to love and respect his country and his flag, at the age of nineteen years, Charles Roome enlisted in the 27th Regiment New York State Artillery National Guard (now the famous 7th Regiment National Guard, State of New York.) Four years later, in 1835, while serving on his warrant as Fourth Sergeant of the 4th Company he was elected Captain of his Company in place of his brother, Edward, who was elected Major of the Regiment. Charles Roome was an admirable drill officer and had not only the good will and respect of his Company but of all the officers of his Regiment. He was obliged to resign as Captain of his Company in 1838 owing to business engagements calling him away from New York City. At the outbreak of the Civil War, however, he with Moses Taylor, was instrumental in raising and equipping the 37th Regiment United States Volunteers and was unanimously chosen to command the same and was commissioned Colonel, May 29th, 1862. His Regiment was mustered into service September, 1862, and served in Baltimore and Pennsylvania. Col. Roome was recalled to New York City for service but in May, 1863, again ordered to the front to be again recalled the following July to New York City to assist in quelling the draft riots; remaining on duty in New York City until the expiration of his term of enlistment. President Johnson, for gallantry and faithful and meritorious services, commissioned him a Brevet Brigadier General, May 13th, 1865. General Roome also received the thanks of the Secretary of War for his able services in the defense of Baltimore.

After the Civil War he joined the 7th Regiment Veterans' Association and became one of its most active members. He was also a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, of the James C. Rice Post No. 29 Grand Army of the Republic, and an honorary member of the Old Guard, New York City. General Roome's son, the Rev. Claudius Monell Roome, also served in Company D, 7th Regiment National Guard, State of New York, later became a veteran of the same and served as Chaplain of this Veterans' Association. Two of the sons of Rev. Claudius Monell Roome (grandsons of General Roome) are also members of this same Company and Regiment and have only recently (Dec., 1916) returned from service at the Mexican border.

General Roome was a devout Christian, a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and for many years a communicant of St. Thomas' Church, 53rd Street and 5th Avenue, New York City, from which church he was buried.

General Roome was twice married and by his first wife had two daughters, Mrs. Theodore Parmele, who died leaving two children, a son Charles Roome Parmele and a daughter Mrs. J. H. Butler, and Mrs. Louis Sutherland. By his second marriage he had two sons, Claudius Monell Roome and W. Harris Roome. Both sons were educated in the law and subsequently formed the law firm of Roome and Roome. Claudius inheriting the deep religious nature of his father later discontinued the practice of law, entered the General Theological Seminary and in addition to the degrees of A. B. and L. L. B. previously received at Columbia University, this Seminary conferred upon him the degree of B. D. on May 24th, 1893. He was ordained as a deacon in Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church, New York City, on Trinity Sunday, May 28th, 1893, by Right Rev. Henry Codman Potter, 33°, Bishop of the Diocese of New York. He was subsequently ordained to the priesthood on the first Sunday in Lent, Feb. 11th, 1894, by the Right Rev. Theodore A. Starkey, D. D., Bishop of Newark, N. J., at St. Luke's Church, Mountclair, N. J., of which church he was then the rector's assistant and subsequently became rector. The Rev. Claudius Monell Roome also inherited the love and interest in Masonry of his grandfather and father and was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Kane Lodge No. 454 F. and A. M., New York City, together with his half nephew (father's grandson) Charles Roome Parmele, in 1881, on the same evening; General Roome himself conferring the degree upon them both. This was followed in due course by the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees and the son, Claudius, soon became an officer and served his Lodge efficiently for seven years, becoming Worshipful Master in 1891 and serving as such for one year, is a life member of the Lodge and has been a Chaplain of the same since 1893. He also served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York during 1912 and 1913 by appointment of Most Worshipful Charles Smith, Grand Master.

He also became a member of his father's Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Jerusalem Chapter, No. 8, New York City, in 1882 and there also served continuously as an officer for seven years, presiding as High Priest in 1889. He was appointed to succeed his father, at the latter's death, as Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania on July 2nd, 1890. He is also a life member of his Chapter.

He was Knighted in his father's Commandery, Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23 Knights Templar, New York City, in 1883, became a life member, and here too served faithfully for seven years as an officer becoming Eminent Commander in 1890, twenty-one years after his father had been elected the seventh Eminent Commander of this same Commandery and had the melancholy duty of attending his father's funeral but a few weeks later. He also became a life member of Adelphic Council No. 7, Royal and Select Masters (his father's Council) and of the four Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of New York up to and including the 32°.

Upon the death of his father the beautiful Past Master's Jewel, presented to the latter upon his declining re-election to the Mastership of Kane Lodge after serving several years, was returned to the Lodge by the family. On May 3rd, 1892, this same Jewel with the addition of a bar containing the seal of the Lodge in heavy gold and the following inscription, "This bar was added to this jewel by Kane Lodge and presented to W. Bro. C. M. Roome as a token of esteem and appreciation of his services as Master in 1891," was presented to Worshipful Brother Claudius Monell Roome together with a set of theological works, the Lodge rooms being beautifully decorated and these exercises were followed by a large collation; at both functions many prominent Masons were present. Brother Claudius Monell Roome has thus always been a respected, active and devoted member of all his Masonic Bodies—a worthy follower of an honored and distinguished Masonic ancestry.

The other son, W. Harris Roome, is also a member of Kane Lodge No. 454, F. and A. M., Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, R. A. M., and Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar, but has never as yet taken an active part in the work of the Order.

General Roome was a Democrat in politics and a member of the Tammany Society—one of the oldest political societies in the United States. Good fellowship was a strong trait in General Roome's nature and he was a member of various Clubs and Societies including the Union Club, the Titans, Mecca Temple No. 1, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the New York Historical Society, the St. Nicholas Society, of which he served as President, Society Mechanics and Tradesmen, American Institute, and Society American Gas Light Engineers.

He was one of those who in 1875 met at the call of P. E. DeMill, E. T. Watkins, and T. C. Montgomery for a conference on the advisability of forming an American Association of Gas Engineers, he was called upon to preside and was elected as the first President and unanimously re-elected until the seventh annual meeting at Philadelphia when he positively declined re-election. He was then elected first Honorary Member. Also elected to Honorary Membership in the New England Association at their meeting in Boston, February, 1877, and placed upon the Honorary roll of the Society of Gas Lighting in 1884.

We now come to a consideration of his brilliant Masonic career which although begun rather late in life, like everything else undertaken by this virile, capable, energetic individual, led rapidly to the attainment of the highest office in various Bodies in rapid succession until the acme of pre-eminence came upon his election to the exalted position of Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America, the largest Masonic Body in the world.

For convenience each Masonic Body with his official connection therewith will be taken up separately in describing his twenty-four years of continuous services as a Mason.

General Roome was initiated January 2nd, 1866, passed January 16th, 1866, and raised to the Sublime Degree of a

Master Mason January 30th, 1866, in Kane Lodge No. 454 F. and A. M. of New York City. At the first ensuing annual election he was selected to preside in the West as Senior Warden and the following year was elected Worshipful Master and served as such for the years 1868, 1869 and 1870 and again for the year 1876. At the annual election held on December 20th, 1870, at 948 Broadway after he had been appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 25th Masonic District, then embracing all city lodges above 25th Street by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, he positively declined re-election as Worshipful Master. Thereupon the Lodge presented him with a set of elaborately and beautifully engrossed resolutions in book form accompanied by an eloquent address; also a Past Master's Jewel of exquisite design set with a diamond of extreme purity and brilliancy; also a gold watch and chain, the case of the former elaborately ornamented and with the initials C. R. in monogram. General Albert Pike, 33°, and many other prominent Masons were present upon this occasion. After his death his jewel was returned to the Lodge by his family and subsequently with the addition of a bar was presented to his son, Worshipful Brother Claudius Monell Roome, as has previously been stated.

General Roome was subsequently appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of California near the Grand Lodge of New York. In 1871 he was appointed Grand Marshall of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York serving in this office under three consecutive Grand Masters. General Roome also served as a member of the Building Committee of the Masonic Temple at 23rd Street and Sixth Avenue, supervising its construction.

As Grand Marshall of the Grand Lodge he took a prominent part in the dedication of this structure in 1875, uttering the following words at this ceremony: "In the presence of the Supreme Architect of the Universe whose unnumbered blessings we humbly acknowledge and by order of Most Worshipful Elwood S. Thorn, Grand Master of Masons, and under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York and the brethren bearing it fealty and allegiance, I declare the new Masonic Temple dedicated."

General Roome on June 6th, 1878, was elected Deputy Grand Master and in 1879 Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York and served faithfully and with distinction in this exalted office. On May 3rd, 1881, in his own Lodge he had the pleasure and satisfaction of conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree upon his own son, Claudius Monell Roome, and upon his own grandson, Charles Roome Parmele.

General Roome was also an Honorary Member of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, F. and A. M., and of Hudson River Lodge No. 2, F. and A. M., of Newburgh, N. Y.

In Capitular Masonry General Roome was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter, No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, on May 4th, 1866, became a life member and had the unusual experience and distinction of being elected High Priest from the floor in his 70th

year and served in that exalted office during the years 1882 and 1883, conducting all the work with simplicity and reverence. During his incumbency of the office of High Priest he was presented with a Royal Arch apron by Most Excellent Companion John W. Simons, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, worn by the latter's father fifty years previously. General Roome was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania and after his death his son, Excellent Companion Claudius Monell Roome, was appointed to succeed his distinguished father as such Grand Representative.

In Cryptic Masonry General Roome was received and greeted in Adelphic Council No. 7, Royal and Select Masters, on December 9th, 1870, became a life member September 12th, 1874, and was subsequently appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Council of California.

In Scottish Rite Masonry General Roome also attained eminence, receiving the degrees up to and including the 32° in 1866. He served as Thrice Potent Master of New York Lodge of Perfection in 1870, 1871 and 1872 and was Treasurer of this Body in 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1879; up to the date of the consolidation of this Body with the two Bodies, Templar Lodge of Perfection and Ancient (formerly called Garibaldi) Lodge of Perfection, to form the single Body, The Lodge of Perfection of New York City, on December 20th, 1879. He also served as Junior Warden in Zeal and Constancy Chapter Rose Croix of New York City during 1869 and 1870 and as Treasurer of Cosmopolitan Consistory of New York City during the years 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875. On September 19th, 1872, in New York City, at the annual session of the Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, United States of America, he was crowned a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33° Honorary and was subsequently made an Emeritus Member of Honor of the Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction, United States of America.

He was a frequent attendant and took an active part in the annual meetings of the Council of Deliberation for the State of New York and of the Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction for the United States of America.

His acme of service reached its pre-eminence, however, in Chivalric Masonry, and as a Knight Templar his previous military experience and deeply religious nature found a fitting sphere in which to bring forth all that was best and noblest in his splendid upright character and to render service in its supreme body that became epoch making.

General Roome was Knighted in Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar of New York City, on November 7th, 1866, was elected Generalissimo in 1867 and became the seventh Eminent Commander, serving efficiently and faithfully during the years 1869, 1870 and 1871, and upon his retirement, at a sumptuous banquet in his honor, he was presented with a beautifully engrossed set of resolutions (engrossed by Very Eminent Sir John W. Simons, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar United States of America.)

He was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Vermont near the Grand Commandery of New York and by this time his worth and ability in Templarism had been recognized as of such a high order that at the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the state of New York held at Buffalo in October, 1869, he was elected Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Commandery.

At the Conclaves of this Grand Body in October of each succeeding year he was duly advanced; in 1870 at Utica to the office of Grand Junior Warden, in 1871 at Albany to Grand Senior Warden, in 1872 at Norwich to Grand Captain General, in 1873 at Newburgh to Grand Generalissimo, in 1874 at Oswego to Deputy Grand Commander, and finally in 1875 at Rochester the highest Templar honor of the State was conferred upon him by his unanimous election to the office of Grand Commander to preside over the destinies of one of the largest and most influential Templar Bodies subordinate to the Grand Encampment. These services to his own Grand Commandery led to recognition in the Grand Encampment and on April 3rd, 1878, Most Eminent Sir Vincent L. Hurlbut, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, United States of America, executed a commission to Right Eminent Sir Charles Roome (in place of Right Eminent Sir Orrin L. Welch, deceased) appointing him as Grand Representative of District No. 2 of the Grand Encampment (then consisting of the Grand Commanderies of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.) Under this appointment General Roome was not only present officially at the annual Conclave of each of these Grand Commanderies but also at the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia and duly presented his triennial report at the 21st Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U. S. A., held at Chicago, Ill., in August, 1880. On the opening day of this Triennial Conclave, August 17th, upon call of the roll of Grand Officers, at the call of the office of Very Eminent Grand Junior Warden, the Grand Master announced its late incumbent dead whereupon the Grand Encampment rose and stood silent. The Grand Master then announced that he would fill the place temporarily from day to day and appointed Sir Knight Charles Roome, Past Grand Commander of New York, to act as Junior Warden for that day's session. At the triennial election of officers held on Tuesday, August 19, 1880, General Roome was unanimously elected Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment to serve for the next three years. At this time the Grand Encampment consisted of 31 subordinate Grand Commanderies having a total of 552 Commanderies directly subordinate to them and 24 Commanderies in 13 different states and territories where no Grand Commanderies had yet been organized and therefore directly subordinate to the Grand Encampment—all the above Bodies having a total membership of 48,409 Sir Knights duly enrolled. The income of the Grand Encampment at this time was about $3,000 annually,

with expenditures approximating $2,000 annually, and some $5,000 in the Grand Treasury. During the triennial period 1880-1883, as Grand Generalissimo, he continued to act as the Grand Representative of the Grand Encampment for the Second District (now composed of the Grand Commanderies of New York and Vermont). He was present at two of the three Conclaves of the Grand Commandery of the State of Vermont and of all three of the Conclaves of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York and duly rendered his triennial report of the same at the Triennial Conclave of 1883. During this period General Roome as Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment also officially accompanied the Grand Master, Most Eminent Sir Benjamin Dean, and Very Eminent Sir John W. Simons, Grand Treasurer, together with an escort from Morton Commandery No. 4 Knights Templar, New York City, with Sir Albert G. Goodell as chairman of its committee of arrangements, from New York City to Philadelphia where they were guests of the Grand Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania and participated in the exercises of the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and of Philadelphia.

At the 22nd Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar United States of America held in San Francisco, August 21-24th, 1883, as Grand Generalissimo he was appointed a member of the Committee to arrange for the part the Grand Encampment should take in the ceremonies of the laying of the corner stone of the Garfield Monument in Golden Gate Park by the Grand Lodge of California. He also presented a resolution to the Grand Encampment "that the services of Past Grand Master Vincent Lumbard Hurlbut are hereby recognized and that a Committee be named to prepare and present to him the official jewel of the Body together with best wishes that he may have length of days and all prosperity." General Roome was appointed Chairman of this Committee.

At this triennial election held on August 23rd, 1883, he was unanimously elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment for the ensuing three years. Again he acted as the official Representative of the Grand Encampment for the Second District comprising the States of New York and Vermont, attended and installed the Grand Officers at two of the annual Conclaves of the Grand Commandery of the State of Vermont and all three of the annual Conclaves of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York during this triennial period. He also attended and installed the Grand Officers at two of the three annual Conclaves of the Grand Commandery of the State of Connecticut and at the last one of which he also reported having witnessed the exemplification of the new ritual of the Order of Malta in a most admirable manner. The appointment of the Hon. Robert E. Withers, then Grand Master, as United States Minister to China necessitating the latter's departure from the United States, threw the additional responsibility of that exalted office upon Deputy Grand Master Roome.

In conformity with Grand Master Wither's order of May 20th, 1885, General Roome became Acting Grand Master of the

Grand Encampment and performed all the duties of the position faithfully and well, presiding at the 23rd Triennial Conclave held in St. Louis, Missouri, September 21st to 24th, 1886. On September 23rd, 1886, he was unanimously elected to the exalted office of Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America and was destined during the following three years, by patient forbearance, calm judgment and administrative ability of the highest order to lead this great Body safely through a period which under the direction of a less able leader would have been fraught with the most grave danger to its very existence and completely devitalized it as a Body of power, strength and force in Templarism.

For many years there had been lack of uniformity in the ritualistic work resulting in a considerable variation in the work in the several Grand Commandery jurisdictions.

A Committee of the Grand Encampment had carefully revised the Rituals and the Report of the same had been duly accepted and the Rituals ordered printed and distributed to the various subordinate Commanderies through the medium of the Grand Commanderies having immediate jurisdiction and this under direction of the Grand Master.

General Roome ordered the distribution and use of these rituals as a part of his official duty as Grand Master in carrying out the legislative action of the Grand Encampment at its Triennial Conclave of 1886.

The Grand Commandery of New Jersey failing to enforce the use of these new rituals was ordered to do so without further delay by a General Order under seal of the Grand Master, and subsequently complied. The Grand Commandery of Tennessee also failed to enforce the use of these new rituals and upon being ordered so to do by a General Order under seal of the Grand Master, the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee called a special Conclave of his Grand Commandery and the latter repealed a resolution that had previously been passed at the regular annual Conclave declining to adopt the new rituals. Thereupon an immediate compliance with the Order of the Grand Master in this Jurisdiction followed. The Grand Commandery of Iowa, however, not only failed to comply with the Order of the Grand Master but their Grand Commander refused to call a special Conclave of his Grand Commandery or act in his official position as Grand Commander to enforce this Order so that there was an open defiance and disobedience of Orders by this Grand Body and its Grand Commander; even going to the extreme of questioning the right of the Grand Master and of the Grand Encampment, the latter of making and the former of enforcing such a demand.

After a prolonged correspondence carried on in a most dignified and courteous manner on the part of the Grand Master and which must have taxed to the utmost the patience of a man of his military training and experience and with his great love of order and obedience, he was finally obliged to issue an Order suspending the Grand Commandery of Iowa from all fraternal relations with all other Grand Commanderies and all Command-

eries immediately subordinate to the Grand Encampment until the next Triennial Conclave of this latter Body. This was one of the most important and vital steps taken by any Grand Master and of greater moment than that of any previous or subsequent time as it did away forever with the doctrine of "States rights" which with developing momentum bid fair to menace the very existence of the Grand Encampment.

This whole situation with the entire correspondence was submitted to the Grand Encampment at its next Triennial Conclave held in Washington, D. C., October 8th to 11th, 1889, and the actions of the Grand Master were sustained and approved. The Grand Commandery of Iowa subsequently complied with this Order of the Grand Master, was reinstated to its full rights and fraternal relations and has ever since been one of the most loyal, devoted and useful subordinate Bodies of this Grand Encampment.

This result alone entitles General Roome to a place as one of the great Masonic leaders of his time and the quarter of a million loyal Sir Knights now (1917) owing allegiance to this great world power are a living testimonial to his rare administrative genius.

The Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U. S. A., having recognized for the first time the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada as an independent sovereign body at its Triennial Conclave held in 1886, General Roome as Grand Master appointed Right Eminent Sir Theo. S. Parvin as Grand Representative of that Body. At the 24th Triennial Conclave held in 1889 the latter was duly received through the lines as such Grand Representative together with Very Eminent Sir S. S. Matthews, Sub-Prior of the Great Priory of Canada.

At this same Triennial Conclave Most Eminent Sir James H. Hopkins, Past Grand Master, read a very interesting paper upon the "Formation of the Grand Encampment," and upon motion this paper was received and ordered printed as a part of the Proceedings of the Grand Encampment for 1889.

General Roome as Grand Master distributed $1,000 of the $2,000 appropriated at the Triennial Conclave held in 1886 to alleviate the distress of the Sir Knights who suffered from the effects of the Charleston Earthquake.

During this period of his Grand Mastership (1886-1889) four new Grand Commanderies were formed, namely, in Oregon, April 13th, 1887; Washington Territory, June 2nd, 1887; Wyoming Territory, March 7th, 1888; and Montana Territory, May 14th, 1888.

The following subordinate Commanderies were also constituted: Ivanhoe Commandery No. 2, November 13th, 1886, at Rawlins, Wyoming Territory; Cataract Commandery No. 3, October 26th, 1886, at Spokane Falls, Washington Territory; El Monte Commandery No. 2, September 23rd, 1886, at Ogden, Utah Territory; Damascus Commandery No. 4, November 13th, 1886, at Miles City, Montana Territory; Ivanhoe Commandery No. 4, September 23rd, 1886, at Tacoma, Washington Territory;

Immanuel Commandery No. 3, October 19th, 1886, at Laramie City, Wyoming Territory; and Temple Commandery No. 3, January 6th, 1887, at Albany, Oregon.

Also dispensations were issued to Aldemar Commandery No. 5, U. D., January 28th, 1887, and St. Bernard Commandery No. 6, U. D., July 1st, 1887, both in Montana Territory, and to Olivet Commandery No. 4, U. D., March 17th, 1887, at Orlando, Florida.

As Grand Master General Roome witnessed the conferring of the Order of Malta in Cincinnati Commandery at Cincinnati, Ohio, June 1st, 1888, and described the work as "the most perfect exemplification he had ever witnessed."

On October 10th, 1889, John Peter Sutpen Gobin was elected Grand Master and he and the other Grand Officers elect were duly installed into their respective offices by Grand Master Roome at the afternoon session of the same day.

As fitting testimonials to this great leader of a great organization the Grand Encampment presented him with two figures in bronze; one representing a **standard bearer**, the other a **cross-bowman.** These he remarked "he would regard as suitable memorials to be handed down in his family as heirlooms and commemorative of the high honor which had been conferred upon him by this Grand Body." On the base of each figure was engraved the following inscription: "Presented to M. E. Sir Charles Roome, P. G. M., by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, January, 1890."

In October, 1889, when General Roome laid down the emblem of authority the Grand Encampment was composed of 813 subordinate Commanderies under the jurisdiction of 37 Grand Commanderies and of 22 subordinate Commanderies under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment (in states and territories where no Grand Commanderies had as yet been organized), and with a grand total of 78,918 Sir Knights enrolled, and with an annual income of $4,135.30 and net cash resources in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of $17,829.21. Thus during the period of nine years in which General Roome served so efficiently as an officer of the Grand Encampment its membership had increased nearly 70 per cent. and its income over 25 per cent. in addition to a large and rapidly increasing surplus accumulating in the Grand Treasury.

Failing health was already sapping the vitality of this great Mason, ever thoughtful of his family and others, and but a short six months later on June 28th, 1890, at his residence, 29 West 52nd Street, New York City, in his 78th year, bronchitis and general debility had done their work and this stalwart standard-bearer had won his immortal Crown.

"How passing beautiful that sleep
That gently falls upon the silvered brow of years,
And shuts the weary eyelids, filled with tears,
And opens them, never more to weep."

No citizen or Mason has ever had a more impressive funeral.

His son, Claudius Monell Roome, was then Eminent Commander of Couer de Lion Commandery No. 23 Knights Templar over which the deceased had so ably presided in the years gone by. The service was conducted in the church he loved and where he and his family had worshiped for so many years, St. Thomas Protestant Episcopal Church, and under both Church and full Masonic auspices.

The Church services were under the direction of the rector, Rev. Dr. John Wesley Brown, a Past Commander of Detroit Commandery, Knights Templar of Detroit, Michigan assisted by Rev. Dr. Charles H. Hall of Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn, Past Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U. S. A.; Rev. Charles Russell Treat, Chaplain of Kane Lodge No. 454 F. and A. M.; and Rev. Dr. Kirby. Dr. Brown delivered the impressive funeral oration dwelling upon the magnetic personality, great ability and unquestioned fidelity of the deceased, his chivalric, modest, faithful, generous, thoughtful nature and of the high esteem with which he had always been regarded by his fellow men.

Upon the arrival of the casket at the church it was met by the clergy at the door, the latter preceded it down the aisle to the altar, the following acting as honorary pall bearers: James W. Smith, President Consolidated Gas Co.; Dr. James A. Bennett; Charles T. McClenachan, 33°, Commander-in-Chief New York Consistory Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite; Wm. Sherer, Deputy Grand Master Grand Lodge of the State of New York; Charles E. Gregory; and General John Peter Sutpen Gobin, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U. S. A. Then followed the members of General Roome's immediate family, many personal friends, and a large delegation, some 70 in all, of members of his Lodge, Kane No. 454 F. and A. M., in Masonic regalia. Among the latter were Most Worshipful J. Edward Simmons, Past Grand Master Grand Lodge State of New York; Right Worshipful Edward L. Gaul; Worshipful Charles H. Haswell; Worshipful Wm. H. Hees; Worshipful Rollin M. Morgan; George Whitfield Brown, Jr.; and Wm. Homan.

Among other prominent Masons present were Most Worshipfuls Frank R. Lawrence, John Little, and Elwood E. Thorne, Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge State of New York; John G. Barker, Past Grand Librarian; John G. Boyd, Past Grand Treasurer; and the following other past grand officers: Robert Bonynge, J. M. Tighe, Robert McCoy, John H. Collins, Wm. Peterkin, George Hayes, A. B. Price, Robert Roberts, Edward Warker, Warren Burgess, and Thomas E. Stewart. Also Judge John J. Gorman, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge State of New York; Col. Edward M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary Grand Lodge State of New York; Theopolis Pratt, Trustee Masonic Asylum Fund; General J. H. Hobart Ward 33°; and Worshipful James Fuller. There were also present many members of his Chapter, Jerusalem No. 8, Royal Arch Masons.

The following members of Adelphic Council No. 7 Royal and Select Masters, were also present: Thrice Illustrious Master

Frederick Kanter, Deputy Master Geo. E. W. Stivers, Treasurer John W. Coburn, Recorder T. F. Russell, Marshall J. Harvey Connell, Steward R. B. Brinkerhoff, Sentinel John Hoole, A. B. Price, F. E. Davis, and Thomas Darling.

A large representation from his Commandery, Couer de Lion No. 23 Knights Templar, of which his son, Claudius Monell Roome, was at that time Eminent Commander, were also present.

The Grand Commandery of the State of New York was represented by Right Eminent Sir Foster N. Mabee, Grand Commander; Very Eminent Sir George McGown, Deputy Grand Commander; Eminent Sir and Rev. Cornelius M. Twing, Grand Prelate; Eminent Sir John H. Bonnington, Grand Senior Warden; Eminent Sir James W. Bowden, Grand Junior Warden; Eminent Sir Robert McCoy, Grand Recorder; Eminent Sir Arthur MacArthur, Grand Warden (who in 1913 became Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U. S. A.); and Eminent Sir Charles J. Bliven, Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of the State of Ohio.

The Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America was represented by the Grand Master, Most Eminent Sir John Peter Sutpen Gobin (one of the honorary pall bearers), and Rev. and Very Eminent Sir Charles H. Hall, Past Grand Prelate, who assisted in the solemn and impressive funeral services at the church.

General Roome's old Regiment, the 37th New York Volunteers, was represented by Col. G. M. Dusenberry, Quartermaster Joseph Meeks, and several other officers and men.

Rice Post, Grand Army of the Republic paid the last respects to its esteemed comrade by the attendance of its officers and a large delegation of other members in addition.

General Wager Swayne, Major Joseph Horner, Surgeon J. F. Ferguson, and Captain White of the Loyal Legion were present as representatives of that Military Order.

A delegation from Continental Lodge No. 287 F. and A. M., were also present.

There was furthermore a large attendance of directors and men of the Consolidated Gas Co. with which General Roome had been so intimately associated for so many years.

An unusually fine and impressive musical service was rendered by the organist, Wm. C. Macfarlane, assisted by Mrs. Marie Gramon, soprano; Miss Emily Winant, contralto; Clinton Elder, tenor; and Wm. R. Squire, bass. "The Dead March of Saul" was the processional. An anthem was chanted followed by Hymn 514, "Art Thou Weary," Hymn 572, "Lead Kindly Light," the anthem "I heard a Voice," and the Masonic Funeral Hymn, concluding with the recessional "Funeral March" by Bethoven.

Then the handsome casket covered with black cloth and ladened with flowers was borne from the church and placed in the hearse. Two carriages ladened with beautiful floral emblems preceded and over forty carriages containing friends and relatives followed the remains to Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, where the full Masonic commital services were conducted

by Kane Lodge No. 454 F. and A. M. Here Worshipful Master Rollin M. Morgan assisted by Lillian Herbert Andrews, Senior Warden; Wm. R. O'Brien, Junior Warden; Thomas E. Stewart, Chaplain; Charles J. Bliven, Senior Deacon; George E. W. Stivers, Junior Deacon; and Charles C. Little, Marshall, and surrounded by a large delegation of other Brothers, the members of the family, and many sorrowing friends bade a tender farewell to the Brother whom in life they had loved so well.

The Kane Lodge Quartette in a beautiful and feeling manner chanted the "Lord's Prayer" followed by "The Lord is my Shepherd." At the close of the service the entire assemblage sang "Abide with Me," the benediction being pronounced by Rev. and Eminent Sir Cornelius L. Twing, Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York.

The floral pieces were many and unusually beautiful. Upon the casket rested the Cross of Salem made of ivy leaves and white roses presented by Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar. Beneath it rested an immense wreath of silver leaves trimmed with La France roses and tied with purple satin ribbon from Kane Lodge No. 454 F. and A. M. There were also a floral triangle from Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, R. A. M., floral pillow from Adelphic Council No. 7, R. and S. M., large floral cross and crown from the Grand Commandery of the State of New York, floral crescent from Mecca Temple No. 1, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, wreaths from Most Worshipful J. Edward Simmons and Hon. Wm. Dowd, and various other beautiful pieces from loving relatives and friends.

Thus passed the spirit of this valiant and magnanimous Knight—

"To that far land, far beyond storm and cloud,
To that bright land, where sun doth never set,
To that life land, which has no tomb nor shroud,
Where friends can meet again who oft have met."

Resolutions and letters of condolence were received by members of his family from the various societies, military, Masonic, and other organizations of which he had been a member; notably Kane Lodge No. 454 F. and A. M., the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, R. A. M., Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar, the Grand Commandery of the State of New York, the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Bodies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of New York, the Council of Deliberation, A. A. S. R. of the State of New York, the Supreme Councils Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for both the Northern and Southern Masonic Jurisdictions, U. S. A., Adelphic Council No. 7, R and S. M., Masonic Veterans' Association, 7th Regiment National Guard State New York Veterans' Association, James C. Rice Post No. 29 Grand Army of the Republic, Loyal Legion, and many other Masonic and other Bodies and from numerous friends.

At a Lodge of Sorrow held Thursday, December 3rd, 1891, under the auspices of the Lodge of Perfection of New York City,

his long and fruitful Masonic life and splendid characteristics were eloquently and feelingly referred to in an address on "Immortality" by Ill. Charles T. McClenachan, 33°, followed by an Eulogium by Edward Knowles, 32°.

"Now is the stately column broke,
The beacon light is quenched in smoke,
The trumpet's silver voice is still,
The warder silent on the hill."

Nothing perhaps can give a keener insight into the real character and ideals of this great Templar than the following quotations from his Address as retiring Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U. S. A., delivered on October 8th, 1889, at the 24th Triennial Conclave held in Washington, D. C.: "When at the last Conclave of the Grand Encampment you chose me to fill the important and distinguished office of Grand Master, I entered upon the discharge of the duties thus imposed with a firm determination to deserve the honor which you had conferred. The Order of which I was placed at the head is one in which simple membership is a distinction. It is one calculated to promote the noblest virtues and to enrich and beautify the most cultured mind. Such then being its character I have ever tried to keep before my eyes the beauty and grandeur of our profession and in the spirit of our lessons I have endeavored to discharge the important duties entrusted to my care."

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"Nothing affords one greater pleasure than to meet with members of our magnanimous Order and with them to join in the rehearsal of our solemn and impressive ceremonies."

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"Having thus given you the report of my stewardship, I am now ready to lay aside the honors and dignities you have been pleased to confer and again to take my place in the ranks of our beloved Order. But so long as I may live, I shall always remember with pleasure the many assurances of friendship that I have received from Sir Knights hailing from all parts of our common country and I shall ever be grateful to my associate officers for their aid in the discharge of the important duties you committed to my care. All my acts while in your service have been done only after the most careful consideration and with an eye directed solely to the good of our magnanimous institution. I have labored, as I should, to promote that harmony and goodwill which is so characteristic of the soldiers of the Temple. I have striven to obey all your laws and have sought to teach my Fraters the absolute necessity for this obedience. At all times and in all places I have tried to impress others with the beauty and grandeur of our profession, and to instill into all minds a love for the doctrines we are united to defend; and it has ever been my aim to lead my companions to look behind the veils of elaborate ceremonial and of glittering uniform, to behold the precious treasures there enshrined. How far I have succeeded in this task is for you Sir Knights to judge. It is your duty

also to correct such mistakes as I may have made, that the symmetry of our mystic Temple may be in no way marred by any act of mine. In this Temple we worship for a short time only. As we have received it from the fathers of our Order so let us hand it down to our children, that they in turn may within its asylum show their devotion to the Great Captain of our Salvation. While we strive to preserve unimpaired the excellent tenets of our institution, while we endeavor to spread still further the influence of our holy faith, let us never forget, however, that all our tenets and all our faith will be but fleeting, unsubstantial dreams, unless, by acts of charity and pure beneficence we prove the sincerity of all that we profess. Let us then remember that ours is a spiritual warfare, that our foes are the temptations offered by the world, the flesh, and the devil, and that we can never hope to conquer unless we put on the whole armor of God. Therefore in the words of the holy apostle, Sir Knights, as poor fellow soldiers of Jesus Christ 'Take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth; and having on the breast-plate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.' "

Such sentiments expressed but a few months prior to his death, show the noble, patient, earnest, faithful Knight who by his wise forbearance, insistence upon obedience to the supreme law, and tactful enforcement of the same saved his Grand Encampment from threatened dissolution and we as successors to this great heritage may well rise up and call his name "Blessed" for today (1917) this Grand Body numbers among its membership nearly 250,000 Sir Knights with about $150,000 in the treasury;—a mighty power and a vast host of Christian Warriors for the advancement of all that is best in this life.

Thus this Builder wrought in the Temple beautifying, adorning, and enlarging it; and his name and works will stand forth through all time as a fitting and shining example that may well be emulated by all future leaders of this great Order.

"So falls the last of the old forest trees
Within whose shade we wandered with delight.
* * * Now the Masons mourn
Through temple chambers, their dear Master fallen!
The ruffian Death has met and struck his prey,
And from the quarry to the mount all mourn,
Bind up with asphodel the mystic Tools
And Jewels of the Work; bind up, ye Craft
The Square: it marked the fullness of his life,
In truth's right angle all his deeds were true!
The Level: lo, it leads us to the grave,
Where in kind mother earth our veteran sleeps!
The Plumb: it points the home his soul hath found;

Did he not walk true to the unerring line,
Let down suggesting, from the hand of God?
The Gauge: he gave one part to God, and God,
In blest exchange gave him eternity!
The Trowel: in his gentle charge it spread
Sweet concord, binding long estranged hearts!
The Gavel: in his master hand it swayed
Through many years the Moral Architects,
Quelling all strife, directing every hand
And pointing us to the Great Builder—God!"

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